

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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BERTRAM P. BROWN, M.D., Director

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GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

Dental Services in the State Health Department*

The Dental Services of the State Department of Public Health is an integral part of the Bureau of Child Hygiene program for maternal and child health, being one of five services offered by the bureau to mothers and children in the State; the others are medical supervision through prenatal and child health conferences, nursing service for health education, maternity home and hospital inspections, and nutrition education.

The work of the Dental Services is fundamentally educational and preventive in character; we believe that emphasis should be placed upon dental health education and preventive dentistry for the expectant mother and the preschool child, since any attempt to reduce the incidence of dental caries should begin at the time teeth are forming and developing, and continue after their eruption. We realize that this is decidedly a long-range program and objective, and that striking results will not be immediately manifest. The impelling principle is that only by such endeavor we may one day be able to cope with, or keep abreast of, the increment of dental decay. The integration of dental with that of the other services of the bureau, affords us the benefit, by concurrency, of examination and health education and supervision so vital to the end for which we are striving. We

have aimed to make our program flexible enough to suit varying local needs.

Our limitations definitely lie within two groups, preschool children, and prenatal patients. All preschool children are admitted to service, regardless of their economic status, as we feel this is both essential and desirable in the interests of public health. We insist, however, that prenatal patients be socialized as unable to pay a private practitioner to establish their eligibility for service under our program.

Referrals for services may be made by a public health nurse, dentist, dental hygienist or physician. Prenatal and child health conferences are conducted by pediatricians under the auspices of the Bureau of Child Hygiene; we strive to maintain close cooperation between these conferences and the dental services, that patients may be referred from one service to the other.

Two dentists, a Supervisor of Dental Services and a Supervising Dentist, have as their work direction and supervision, and the making of the personal contacts necessary to effectively direct the dental policies and regulations of the bureau. They act in a consultant capacity to make dental health information available to physicians, dentists, hygienists, and nurses and educators; they supervise the work of local dentists employed on a part-time basis in conducting clinics, and the staff hygienists assigned to assist in the establishment of local maternal and child

*Abstracted from a paper presented before the Children's Dentistry Section of the California State Dental Association, San Francisco, April 23, 1941.

health dental clinics, and to conduct the dental health educational program.

Three full-time dental hygienists are employed, each being assigned to an area in the State. Their duties primarily consist of the dissemination of dental education and nutrition information to children of preschool age, and their parents; to pupils of the first and higher grammar grades, and to prenatal patients. Lay and professional groups are likewise addressed upon dental hygiene and associated subjects. Brushing demonstrations are given in conjunction with talks to pupils in the classroom. Certain counties have been selected, in which an examination is made of all the first grade pupils in the schools, and cards are issued for home information, specifying whether or not dental defects are present, and if so, requesting that the family dentist be consulted. The figures obtained from such examinations afford a control, for the evaluation at a future date of the dental work accomplished in the county. Visits to prenatal and child health conferences and dental clinics round out a very full schedule.

We may also list under personnel the many private dental practitioners who are cooperating with us on a part-time basis in the conduct of dental clinics in their offices.

The Dental Services of the Bureau of Child Hygiene affords three types of service:

- (1) Dental clinical facilities.
- (2) Dental trailer operations.
- (3) Post-graduate instruction and refresher courses in Children's Dentistry.

In the organization of dental clinics, the public health personnel in a county is interviewed, together with dental practitioners and school authorities. Upon their acquiescence, and upon the recommendation of the county health officer, a sum is budgeted for that county to meet the bills for services and expendable supplies for as many dental clinics as are deemed advisable and necessary. Applications are filled out by ethical dentists who are interested and qualified both by training and experience. Three hours, set aside for the particular purpose of service for the eligibles referred, constitute a dental clinical period. Such clinics are conducted by the dentists selected in their own offices, and we aim to make their number and frequency commensurate with the available material in need of service. It is required that each patient present a properly signed referral slip, as before mentioned.

Service for prenatal patients consists in prophylaxis and the eradication of existing dental infection. Cavities which appear, if untreated, as though they

may cause pulp involvement prior to parturition, are excavated and filled. This service is of definite benefit to the health of both the mother and her unborn child. Information and instruction in mouth hygiene principles and nutrition are given to each patient by the clinician.

Preschool children are afforded the services of prophylaxis, prophylactic odontotomy and preventive dentistry. Structural defects presenting potential areas of decay are corrected by operative means; information and instruction in oral hygiene and nutrition are given to the child, and the parent, if present, together with advice on the correction of injurious habits as their results may be manifested. The necessity for early and frequent visits to the dentist is stressed, and the parent notified that the child will be recalled for a second examination after a four-month period.

We do not wish the educational aspect to be omitted or to be made so secondary to the reparative program that the clinics will develop into merely a welfare endeavor. It is strongly to be desired that a basis of appreciation of oral hygiene be inculcated in the child, and not neglected when he attains the age when clinic service is no longer available. Accurate records of all activities are of vital importance, and insistence is made that they be received in fully and accurately completed form.

The second type of service is that offered by the dental trailer unit, operating within the confines of a county. Preschool children and prenatal patients receive service similar to that rendered in the dental clinics, by the trailer operator. They constitute in number, relatively, but one-third of the total patients treated, the remainder being school children. (The major portion of the salary of the operator is contributed by the county, which accounts for this division of the classes of patients.) Rural schools are visited on a prearranged itinerary; preventive and corrective dental work done for those in need of such service. The trailer operator addresses the various classroom groups on dental health information and nutrition and motion picture films on dental health education are shown. Lay and professional groups are also addressed on subjects relative to dental health. Three counties have this type of trailer service at the present time, with the probability that two more units will be in operation in the near future. Dental trailer service will be available in six counties in the San Joaquin Valley, where there are many camps housing agricultural workers. Dental facilities, otherwise not available, will thus be brought to prenatal patients and preschool children, in accordance with public health principles.

The third type of service, that of post-graduate instruction, affords us the opportunity to bring refresher work in children's dentistry to groups in the several district dental societies, through lectures by a recognized specialist in this work. We also participate in refresher courses in children's dentistry scheduled by the dental colleges in the State, by paying the registration fee and travel expense for as many of our staff and part-time clinicians as budgetary limitations will permit.

Figures from the findings of local draft boards reveal that more selectees have been rejected for service on account of dental defects than for any other single cause. The percentages are amazing, running as high as 25 per cent in New York State, even higher in others, and are above 20 per cent in California. Dental health education and preventive dentistry must meet the challenge presented by these figures, and we have an incentive to redouble our efforts in this field.

MILITARY SANITATION

During April, five sewage treatment plants for military centers have been put into commission and a temporary sewage disposal for another camp was started during the month. Plans have been completed and approved for sewage disposal plants at four air fields. Plans for the disposal of sewage for Army housing units at five military locations are pending. Plans are underway for provision of equipment for the encampment of troops in at least five State parks. Advice relative to the chlorinating of water supplies was provided for an Army air field, and water systems for other Army camps were studied. Four meetings relative to both water supplies and sewage disposal at military centers were attended during the month. The matter of mosquito abatement in those localities where mosquitoes are prevalent also came up for discussion.

HEALTH OFFICERS NEWLY APPOINTED

Dr. Bryson E. Cox has been appointed City Health Officer of Coalinga to succeed Dr. William H. Gilliatt. Dr. Donald E. Thompson has been appointed City Health Officer of Red Bluff to succeed Dr. Frank J. Bailey.

"Probably no other profession demands the complete absorption of one's whole life as does Public Health. To the earnest, inspiring man or woman, to whom the thought of service is an inspiration, no other profession has more to offer."

VENEREAL DISEASE BROADCAST AVAILABLE

Two new United States Public Health Service radio transcriptions circulated through the Federal Radio Education Committee of the United States Office of Education, are now being offered to radio stations throughout the country. It is suggested that health officers communicate with local radio stations, requesting that the transcriptions be used.

The transcriptions are professionally produced. They are written by a Broadway playwright, factually controlled by the Public Health Service, voiced by professional actors, directed by experienced, professional craftsmen, and recorded by the National Broadcasting Company. Following is the description of the two transcriptions from Venereal Disease Education Circular No. 11 of the United States Public Health Service:

The Story of a Young Man is the story of Eddie Hammer, who gets syphilis and goes to a quack. His subsequent visit to his own family physician, his course of treatment, and finally his engagement to the "girl of his dreams" makes an exciting 15-minute story which will hold the interest of listeners in your town.

The Story of Your Town is the story of how one defense boom town took up the challenge of venereal disease. In vivid, dramatic strokes are painted the dangers to defense workers and soldiers, the costs to the community of uncontrolled syphilis. The community counter-attack is fitted into the joint national defense control effort of the Army and Navy and the Federal, State, and local health authorities.

MORBIDITY

Complete Reports for Following Diseases for Week Ending May 10, 1941

Chickenpox

1325 cases: Alameda County 26, Alameda 1, Albany 2, Berkeley 26, Oakland 148, Contra Costa County 5, Fresno County 21, Fresno 14, Humboldt County 4, Eureka 1, Kern County 28, Bakersfield 18, Delano 1, Hanford 13, Los Angeles County 111, Alhambra 9, Burbank 6, Compton 6, El Segundo 1, Glendale 4, Huntington Park 1, Inglewood 2, Long Beach 52, Los Angeles 155, Manhattan 2, Monrovia 3, Montebello 2, Pasadena 16, Pomona 10, Redondo 5, San Fernando 7, San Gabriel 5, Santa Monica 4, Lynwood 5, South Gate 4, Maywood 2, Bell 3, Gardena 2, Madera 1, Larkspur 1, San Anselmo 9, Yosemite National Park 1, Nevada City 5, Orange County 28, Anaheim 2, Brea 3, Fullerton 3, Huntington Beach 1, Orange 6, Santa Ana 12, La Habra 4, Placentia 3, Riverside County 1, Banning 20, Perris 1, Palm Springs 1, Sacramento County 4, Sacramento 96, Hollister 5, Ontario 2, Redlands 7, San Bernardino 2, San Diego County 9, Chula Vista 1, National City 1, San Diego 93, San Francisco 132, San Joaquin County 11, Stockton 11, San Luis Obispo County 17, Paso Robles 1, Burlingame 10, Redwood City 15, San Bruno 4, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Maria 1, Santa Clara County 12, Palo Alto 2, San Jose 6, Siskiyou County 1, Sonoma County 2, Petaluma 1, Santa Rosa 6, Stanislaus County 8, Modesto 11, Turlock 2, Tulare County 3, Exeter 1, Lindsay 4, Ventura County 1, Yolo County 13, Winters 1, Woodland 1.

Diphtheria

9 cases: Butte County 1, Richmond 1, El Dorado County 1, Sacramento 2, Redlands 1, San Francisco 1, Sutter County 2.

German Measles

1508 cases: Alameda County 14, Alameda 15, Albany 1, Berkeley 44, Hayward 4, Livermore 6, Oakland 13, San Leandro 2, Amador County 10, Butte County 2, Chico 1, El Cerrito 1, Martinez 2, Fresno County 2, Fresno 11, Humboldt County 2, Inyo County 2, Kern County 20, Bakersfield 1, Taft 1, Hanford 5, Los Angeles County 98, Alhambra 9, Burbank 4, Compton 9, El Monte 2, El Segundo 1, Glendale 13, Huntington Park 4, Inglewood 1, Long Beach 59, Los Angeles 92, Manhattan 1, Monrovia 2, Montebello 7, Pasadena 28, Pomona 5, Redondo 1, San Gabriel 2, San Marino 1, Santa Monica 6, South Pasadena 3, Whittier 5, Lynwood 1, South Gate 7, Monterey Park 6, Maywood 3, Bell 2, Gardena 1, Madera County 2, Chowchilla 9, Marin County 5, San Anselmo 3, Alturas 2, Monterey County 16, Monterey 1, Pacific Grove 6, Salinas 1, Napa 1, Orange County 50, Anaheim 30, Brea 1, Fullerton 16, Huntington Beach 3, Newport Beach 1, Orange 3, Santa Ana 27, Seal Beach 5, La Habra 7, Laguna Beach 7, Placentia 1, Tustin 3, Corona 1, Elsinore 1, Riverside 7, Sacramento County 26, Sacramento 69, North Sacramento 9, Ontario 1, San Bernardino 1, San Diego County 16, Chula Vista 1, Coronado 1, Escondido 3, La Mesa 3, National City 6, Oceanside 3, San Diego 129, San Francisco 71, San Joaquin County 10, Lodi 2, Manteca 2, Stockton 16, San Luis Obispo County 30, Paso Robles 15, San Luis Obispo 13, San Mateo County 2, Burlingame 5, San Bruno 1, San Mateo 1, Atherton 1, Santa Barbara County 12, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Maria 4, Santa Clara County 46, Gilroy 29, Palo Alto 2, San Jose 2, Santa Cruz County 5, Santa Cruz 2, Shasta County 1, Redding 4, Solano County 5, Vallejo 1, Sonoma County 46, Petaluma 3, Santa Rosa 5, Stanislaus County 8, Modesto 2, Tulare County 1, Ventura County 4, Fillmore 1, Ojai 1, Yolo County 15, Davis 3.

Influenza

31 cases: Berkeley 1, Los Angeles County 2, Alhambra 9, Huntington Park 1, Inglewood 1, Los Angeles 6, Montebello 2, San Gabriel 1, Gardena 2, Santa Ana 1, Sacramento County 1, San Diego 1, Stockton 1, Sonoma County 2.

Malaria

6 cases: San Mateo 1, Siskiyou County 2, Sutter County 1.

Measles

516 cases: Alameda County 1, Alameda 4, Albany 1, Berkeley 4, Oakland 12, San Leandro 1, Butte County 8, Chico 6, Martinez 5, Walnut Creek 1, Placerville 1, Kern County 8, Bakersfield 6, Hanford 2, Los Angeles County 71, Alhambra 1, Burbank 1, Compton 1, El Monte 4, Glendale 1, Huntington Park 10, Long Beach 7, Los Angeles 78, Montebello 2, Santa Monica 1, South Pasadena 7, Lynwood 3, Hawthorne 2, South Gate 24, Bell 7, Corte Madera 1, Larkspur 2, Modoc County 12, Alturas 19, Monterey County 13, Monterey 1, Calistoga 1, Nevada City 39, Orange County 1, Anaheim 1, Brea 1, Fullerton 4, Riverside County 2, Riverside 1, Indio 2, Sacramento County 4, Sacramento 1, North Sacramento 1, San Bernardino 2, San Diego County 1, Coronado 1, San Diego 2, San Francisco 6, San Luis Obispo County 6, Paso Robles 2, San Luis Obispo 2, San Mateo County 3, San Mateo 2, San Carlos 1, Gilroy 1, San Jose 4, Sunnyvale 1, Santa Cruz 1, Siskiyou County 6, Vacaville 2, Vallejo 3, Sonoma County 2, Petaluma 3, Stanislaus County 1, Modesto 9, Turlock 1, Tehama County 26, Trinity County 4, Tulare County 2, Porterville 5, Ventura County 4, Yolo County 1, Davis 1, Woodland 6.

Mumps

1114 cases: Alameda County 1, Alameda 13, Berkeley 1, Oakland 34, San Leandro 2, Butte County 1, Chico 1, Contra Costa County 7, Martinez 5, Walnut Creek 1, Fresno County 2, Bishop 1, Kern County 42, Bakersfield 21, Delano 12, Los Angeles County 109, Alhambra 8, Burbank 1, Claremont 2, El Segundo 1, Glendale 11, Huntington Park 9, Inglewood 13, Long Beach 15, Los Angeles 75, Monrovia 1, Montebello 7, Pasadena 10, Pomona 12, Redondo 1, San Gabriel 3, San Marino 2, Whittier 8, Lynwood 1, South Gate 2, Monterey Park 3, Maywood 7, Bell 16, Madera County 4, Madera 6, Modoc County 2, Alturas 3, Monterey County 12, Monterey 1, Orange County 32, Anaheim 4, Brea 2, Fullerton 5, Huntington Beach 2, Orange 7, Santa Ana 14, La Habra 8, Tustin 1, San Clemente 1, Riverside County 26, Corona 5, Palm Springs 2, Sacramento County 2, Sacramento 7, San Diego County 40, La Mesa 17, National City 1, Oceanside 14, San Diego 127, San Francisco 113, San Joaquin County 7, San Luis Obispo County 3, San Bruno 1, San Carlos 2, Santa Barbara County 6, Lompoc 3, Santa Barbara 27, Santa Clara County 5, Palo Alto 4, San Jose 5, Shasta County 2, Redding 2, Siskiyou County 78, Solano County 1, Sonoma County 3, Santa Rosa 1, Stanislaus County 2, Oakdale 3, Corning 10, Trinity County 5, Tulare County 7, Ventura County 3, Fillmore 1, Oxnard 1, Santa Paula 2, Ventura 1, Davis 1, Winters 6.

Pneumonia (Lobar)

44 cases: Alameda County 2, Berkeley 1, Oakland 2, Richmond 2, Walnut Creek 1, Los Angeles County 8, Alhambra 1, Los Angeles 12, Monrovia 2, Pacific Grove 1, Riverside 1, Sacramento 2, San Diego County 1, San Diego 2, San Francisco 1, Stockton 1, Santa Barbara 1, Sonoma County 1, Sutter County 1, Santa Paula 1.

Scarlet Fever

127 cases: Livermore 1, Oakland 3, Butte County 2, Gridley 3, Oroville 1, Contra Costa County 2, Martinez 3, Fresno County 3, Calxico 1, Kern County 4, Hanford 1, Los Angeles County 6,

Alhambra 3, Burbank 1, Compton 1, Glendora 1, Inglewood 2, Long Beach 3, Los Angeles 34, Manhattan 2, Monrovia 1, Pasadena 3, Whittier 1, Marin County 1, Merced County 1, Alturas 1, Orange County 1, Brea 1, Seal Beach 3, Sacramento County 2, Isleton 2, Redlands 5, San Francisco 6, San Joaquin County 1, Manteca 1, Stockton 3, Daly City 1, Redwood City 2, San Carlos 1, Belmont 1, Santa Barbara County 1, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Rosa 1, Turlock 1, Sutter County 4, Tulare County 1.

Smallpox

One case: Vallejo.

Typhoid Fever

4 cases: Holtville 1, Hanford 1, Santa Clara County 1, Tulare County 1.

Whooping Cough

777 cases: Alameda County 12, Alameda 5, Albany 4, Berkeley 24, Livermore 2, Oakland 36, San Leandro 1, Butte County 1, Martinez 11, Pittsburg 1, Placerville 1, Fresno County 6, Coalinga 1, Fresno 27, Inyo County 6, Kern County 24, Bakersfield 4, Delano 2, Taft 1, Tehachapi 1, Hanford 1, Los Angeles County 101, Alhambra 11, Azusa 2, Glendale 8, Long Beach 20, Los Angeles 53, Monrovia 2, Pasadena 10, Pomona 2, Redondo 1, San Gabriel 4, San Marino 1, South Pasadena 4, South Gate 2, Monterey Park 1, Signal Hill 1, Maywood 3, Gardena 3, Monterey County 3, Nevada City 12, Orange County 19, Anaheim 3, Fullerton 3, Orange 4, Santa Ana 8, Laguna Beach 5, Riverside 9, Indio 2, Sacramento County 1, Sacramento 38, North Sacramento 2, Redlands 3, San Bernardino 2, San Diego County 9, Coronado 1, La Mesa 4, San Diego 73, San Francisco 52, San Joaquin County 29, Lodi 7, Stockton 3, San Luis Obispo County 10, Arroyo Grande 3, San Luis Obispo 1, Daly City 5, South San Francisco 2, San Carlos 1, Menlo Park 1, Santa Maria 2, Santa Clara County 13, Palo Alto 2, San Jose 2, Sunnyvale 2, Shasta County 1, Vallejo 3, Stanislaus County 9, Modesto 1, Oakdale 4, Tulare County 1, Porterville 7, Ventura County 7, Fillmore 3, Yolo County 5.

Meningitis (Epidemic)

4 cases: Oakland 1, Kern County 1, Redlands 1, Shasta County 1.

Dysentery (Amoebic)

7 cases: Glendale 1, Los Angeles 3, Orange County 1, Ontario 1, Yuba County 1.

Dysentery (Bacillary)

6 cases: Bakersfield 1, Hanford 1, Los Angeles County 1, Pasadena 1, South Pasadena 1, Sonoma County 1.

Poliomyelitis

3 cases: Berkeley 1, Los Angeles 1, Marin County 1.

Tetanus

One case: San Diego.

Trachoma

One case: Tulare.

Encephalitis (Epidemic)

2 cases: Bakersfield 1, Hanford 1.

Undulant Fever

11 cases: Burbank 1, Los Angeles 1, Orange County 2, Orange 1, Riverside 1, Santa Barbara County 1, Sonoma County 1, Stanislaus County 1, Yuba City 1, Tulare County 1.

Tularemia

One case: Sonoma County.

Septic Sore Throat

One case: Inyo County.

Epilepsy

36 cases: Oakland 1, Los Angeles County 6, Los Angeles 16, Napa County 1, Orange County 1, San Francisco 2, San Joaquin County 2, San Mateo County 1, Santa Cruz County 1, Sonoma County 5.

Rabies (Animal)

4 cases: Fresno County 2, Madera County 1, San Joaquin County 1.

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